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MONDAY, DECEMBER 5.

The number of regiments under or ders to proceed to Cuba seems to indicate that before many more days roll round that island will bid farewell to Spanish rule forever. And then the problem of a government for the Cubans will have to be worked out. Will it be annexation to the United States or absolute independence? Time alone can tell.

Peace has been arranged between the United States and Spain, but the war of words between commanders and admirals continues. Historians, in writing of the American-Spanish war in the years to come, will be compelled to be very careful not to get the battles between American and Spanish troops and the encounters between American army and navy officers mixed. The affair is pretty well confused, as it is, without adding the proceedings of gabfests.

The matter of amending the laws governing the assessment of property and the collection of taxes is one o the gravest importance to the territory and the coming legislature should take hold of the matter without fear or favor. The good name and credit of the 18 counties in New Mexico and of the territory itself depend upon a careful and honest assessment and collection of the taxes, and the dodger must be placed in a position where he will either pay up promptly or lose his property

In this era of expansion New Mexico opment and growth. There is but one is for the 33d legislative assembly to enact laws which will give outside capital confidence in the territory; in other laws must be permitted to go upon the territorial statutes by the legislature. There, is one thing to be thankful for: The men who have been elected to the legislature are well known and have demonstrated in the past that they have the good of New Mexico at heart.

About the next question to be decided by Uncie Sam is that of Germany's intentions regarding the Philippine islands. It is asserted in Hongkong that the Germans are hostile to the insurgents, while in Manila it is announced that the sympathies of the kaiser are with the Filipinos. Under such circumstances it might be a wise idea to allow Admiral Dewey to take the matter in hand, and in his characteristic way determine the question in a manner which would remove all doubt. The admiral would decide the matter in a short time if placed under his management.

The movement for statehood is gaining strength every day. Congress convened in Washington at noon today and the friends of statehood in New Mexico who have acquaintances among the members of that body should lose no time in bringing what influence they have to bear on congressmen and senators to secure the admission of the territory as a state. A long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together, will secure the much desired change in the government of New Mexico.

The reports coming from the beet sugar factory at Eddy show that the suc cess of the season of 15% has been beyond all expectation. The factory is shipping sugar by the car load to all the towns in the southern part of the territory, into Texas and the south generally. It is estimated that it will require 623 factories the size of the one at Eddy to supply the demand for sugar in the United States, without taking into consideration the constant increase in the demand. Santa Fe ought to be the location of one of that number of factories. Conditions in this city and surrounding country are more favorable for the growing of beets and the manufacture of sugar than anywhere else in the whole country, and the business men and property owners of the city will be guilty of gross business neglect and foresight if they do not at once take hold of the matter and secure a factory in the near future. There is no time like the present to start the enterprise.

If the members of the 33d legislative assembly, which convenes the third Monday of next month, will provide for a constitutional convention, to be held some time the coming summer, a long step toward securing statehood for New Mexico will be taken. One of the things necessary in this matter is to convince the eastern members of congress that the people of the territory are in earnest in the matter of statehood, and the most convincing argument that can be presented will be to prepare a constitution and submit it to a vote of the people the coming fall. New Mexico is entitled to a standing among the states as a section of wonderful natural resources, of great possibilities in the way of development, but that standing will not be granted unless a determined effort is made to secure it."

The Nicaragua Canal.

At the coming session of congress, so the general opinion seems to be, the United States will be committed to the expressed that the truth may provail.

construction of the Nicaragua canal Santa Fe New Mexican construction of the Nicaragua canal its naval necessity is recognized as being no less pressing than its commer cial. There is no reason, however, why an avenue of communication, a new route of transportation so valuable to become, should not be utilized by the American people to the fullest extent.

> Were that canal now in existence while it might be helpful to American interests and commerce, to the imports and exports of the nation, there would be no particular benefit to American shipping, for the reason that American shipping is not extensive enough to participate in its benefits, and it is to b wondered if that shipping will be on the seas when the canal is completed If five years are consumed in the con struction of the canal, that period will be too short for American shipping to have succeeded to any great portion of the carrying of American imports and exports under present conditions. True there is at the present time great activ ity in ship building in American yards. but it will require a long time to construct vessels in sufficient number to carry the commerce of the United States in American bottoms. Also, while the United States is able to build ships as cheaply as other nations, it is not being done, and the changes made in that way the past decade will have to be carried to a greater length than they have. The ship builders of Europe are intrenched and backed up with almost unlimited capital, have mastered every detail of the mazy intricacies of the business, to all of which the great majority of the American builders we omparative strangers.

The opportunity for American ships o share in the vast business which the Nicaragua canal is expected to develop should not be lost sight of or sidetrack ed by congress. The construction of the canal and the revival of American shipping should go hand in hand.

Profiting By Experience.

There has been a marked improve nent in the health of the army within the last two months, as shown by the latest reports to the surgeon general from the field and the general hospitals This is encouraging intelligence and shows that even the airing of soiled army linen before the president's committee of investigation has taught a useful and instructive lesson. As further proof of this, the reports state that the hospitals at Chickamauga, Lexington, Ky., and Jacksonville, Fla., have been emptied and abandoned. Moreover, the hospital train that has carried nearly 4,000 patients from the camps to the general hospital is now lying idle at Washington. The general hospital at Fort McPherson, Ga., has only 200 patients, and 423 beds are vacant, and the general hospital at Fort Myer. Va. has 250 vacant beds and but 162 paought to come in for her share of devel- tients. The hospital at Fortress Monroe has 400 vacant beds, and the hos way to accomplish that result, and that pital at Fort Thomas, Ky., has 371 patients and 103 vacant beds.

The gist of the situation is that after these seven months of hard experience. words, nothing but good and beneficial the volunteer troops especially are learning how to live in the field, their cooks are learning how to properly attend to their duties, how to prepare food so that it can be properly digested. Moreover, the soldiers are learning the necessity of goterning their habits according to the requirements of camp life, they are more abstemious, realize more the necessity of keeping themselves clean, how to draw their rations and to otherwise so observe the hygienic condition of success in preservation of health as to reduce sickness to its lowest terms. The agitation and publication of abuses by the press. though often grossly exaggerated, have made both staff and line appreciate how necessary it is to learn and carry out the natural requirements of army life in the mess room, and in the police duties of the camps, as well as using good horse sense in location of camps, providing them with good water, and so egulating drainage as to leave the men in undefiled surroundings. A disturbing factor largely removed is the decrease of homesickness and a heartie realization that the calls of country demand self sacrifice for the time being Discontent has, too, been a factor in producing sickness. Men enlisted with the expectation of immediately engaging in conflict. In stead of that, the vast bulk of the volunteers were herded in great camps, where the inexperienc of the volunteer staff gave the troops the best of reasons for fault finding and discontent. Comparatively few volunteer commands have seen fighting, and the sudden disappointment of hopes raised to a high pitch had undoubtedly its deteriorating effect on the moral and physical condition of the men.

While there is a disposition to criticise unfavorably the work of the commission, it has brought to light conditions that would otherwise have re mained concealed, and the lessons to be learned from past mistakes have not been overlooked. In the first place, the army staff needs thoroughly overhauling, it needs a judicious weeding out, the situation demands that only those officers who are proficient in their duties shall be retained, and a reorganization on the best models offered by the long established armies of foreign nations. An immense amount of trouble would have been avoided in the beginning and many valuable lives and much property saved had not the sons, brothers, cousins and uncles of prominent and influential politibeen turned loose commissions to make confusion worse confounded by their lack of military knowledge in the administration. or, rather, maladministration, of the great camps. The increase in the quarermaster's and commissary's departnents should have been made up of romotions from the enlisted men of the line who for years had been training in these duties, and could and would have performed them faithfully and well That this policy will be more favorably considered in the future seems evident, and the president is certainly doing all that he can to readjust army administration to more perfect and satisfactory basis? A separate congressiona investigation is promised, but it will hardly do more than bring out more in detail what has in general been made manifest by the presidential commission of investigation. But no one should object to having the truth brought out to the light of day, to the light of careful and just scrutiny, and the hope is

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